

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /060 W

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13415

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: CAPTURE OF MUSLIM REBEL (MNLF) LEADER NIZAM ABUBAKAR

1. ACCORDING AP CORRESPONDENT ZEITLIN, ADMIRAL ESPALDON (COMMANDER SOWESCOM WHICH COVERS SULU AREA) HAS CONFIRMED ZEITLIN'S STORY OF NOV. 11 THAT WELL-KNOWN REBEL LEADER NIZAM ABUBAKAR HAS BEEN CAPTURED. NIZAM IS SON OF FORMER JOLO MAYOR AMINKADRA ABUBAKAR AND WAS MOST RECENTLY REPORTED TO BE SULU CHAIRMAN OF MNLF (MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT.) ACCORDING ESPALDON, NIZAM PICKED UP AFTER BEING WOUNDED BY TREE BRANCH DISLODGED BY GOVERNMENT ARTILLERY SHELL DURING OPERATION AT TAPUI ISLAND.

2. COMMENT. NIZAM, WHO HAS OFTEN BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "MUSLIM MAOIST", IS ONE OF BEST-KNOWN MNLF LEADERS AND SUPPOSED TO HAVE KNOWN ITS CHAIRMAN NUR MISUARI SINCE UNIVERSITY DAYS. HOWEVER HIS PROMINENCE HAS BEEN AT LEAST PARTLY DUE TO FACT THAT HE IS SON OF MAYOR OF JOLO (WHO ALSO DEFECTED TO REBEL SIDE BRIEFLY FOLLOWING DESTRUCTION OF JOLO EARLY THIS YEAR.) IT IS TOO SOON TO CONCLUDE THAT NIZAM'S CAPTURE WILL APPRECIABLY DIMINISH FORMIDABLE WILL (OR ABILITY) TO FIGHT OF TAUSUG REBELS.

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Message Attributes

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